



Empowering People to Change the World

The End Times Church: Our Finest Hour

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The Supreme Court has made a decision last week: legalizing same sex marriage as a federal law across the entire United States

- This is the 4th of July and no better day than today, how prophetic that this day we would talk about what could prove to be the most defining day in our nations history since the Declaration of Independence.
- The Supreme Court has invalidated the marriage laws of 13 states, ruled against cultural precedent on marriage since the beginnings of civilization, and have gone against the laws of every major religion in the world, by a majority of only one vote, a 5-4 decision. Five people.
- "These justices know," Justice Scalia said, "that limiting marriage to one man and one woman is contrary to reason; they know that an institution as old as government itself, and accepted by every nation in history until 15 years ago, cannot possibly be supported by anything other than ignorance or bigotry."

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts stressed his view that [the court's 5-4 ruling legalizing gay marriage nationwide](#) lacked a constitutional basis, [writing one of the court's four dissents Friday](#).

"The majority's decision is an act of will, not legal judgment. The right it announces has no basis in the Constitution or this Court's precedent," Roberts writes in his dissent. "Just who do we think we are?"

Writing that he has "no choice but to dissent," Roberts made it clear that his decision was based in the "restrained conception of the judicial role," rather than a personal view of the definition of marriage. As he writes:

Understand well what this dissent is about: It is not about whether, in my judgment, the institution of marriage should be changed to include same-sex couples. It is instead about whether, in our democratic republic, that decision should rest with the people acting through their elected representatives, or with five lawyers who happen to hold commissions authorizing them to resolve legal disputes according to law. The Constitution leaves no doubt about the answer.

Not only is the Constitution clear on the matter, Roberts argues, but also "This Court's precedents have repeatedly described marriage in ways that are consistent only with its traditional meaning."

Additionally, Roberts invokes the founders of the US, writing, "Those who founded our country would not recognize the majority's conception of the judicial role ... They would never have imagined yielding that right on a question of social policy to unaccountable and unelected judges."

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/chief-justice-roberts-on-gay-marriage-ruling-just-who-do-we-think-we-are-2015-6#ixzz3eU6UNIHQ>

Roberts continues, "The court invalidates the marriage laws of more than half the states and orders the transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia, for the Kalahari Bushmen and the Han Chinese, the Carthaginians and the Aztecs," he wrote. "Just who do we think we are?"

- This could be one of the most pivotal decisions in the history of our nation. Some have said that it is as important as the Declaration of Independence.
- Dr. James Dobson calls this the beginning of the end of western civilization, as we have known it.

- The National Organization of Marriage commented, "The U.S. Supreme Court does not have the authority to redefine something it did not create. Marriage was created long before the United States and our constitution came into existence. Our constitution says nothing about marriage. The majority who issued today's ruling have simply made it up out of thin air with no constitutional authority."
- The implications are all inclusive and evasive. Darkness will increase in a far exhilarated way.

Culture will change, Values in a society will change, Politics will change, Politicians will change, Economic realities will change, but some things never change—the majesty of God never changes, the plenary substitutionary atonement of Christ never changes. The need for men and women to come to Christ and be saved and set free never changes

1) Jesus is still on the Throne in Majesty and Power

At The Road, we believe in Jesus. Everything we do, everything we emphasize, all the work we are a part of is about Jesus!! Jesus is the one who lived a sinless life, went to the cross and gave himself as the plenary substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of the world. He saved you and me and that is why we are here worshipping Him. He lived a life we could not live, he died a death we could not die, to give us a life we can live in the power of His Spirit. At The Road, it's all about Jesus.

- In Revelation 4 Jesus is on the throne, "Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ¹ and this is while Nero or Domitian were the Emperors of Rome, both of whom were despotic mad lunatic men

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Re 4:2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- God was on the throne then and He's on the throne now!
- The Supreme Court can do many things but the Supreme Court cannot put Jesus back in the tomb. The Supreme Court and the gates of hell cannot prevail against the Church. Jesus is Nazareth is still alive and He is still calling the universe to Himself.

2) The Bible, this book, is still Living, Active, and Authoritative for Faith and Practice

At The Road, we believe in the Word of God, the Bible, as the inerrant, infallible, living, active, sharper than any two edged sword authoritative words of God for man. Our authority and foundation for everything in life comes from God's Word, is grounded in God's Word, and is built upon God's Word

- This is a bigger story than just traditional values or western civilization
- The purpose is to Codify an Anti-Christian culture! They will systematically set up all the options for sexual activity into the curriculum. It will be seen as healthy and normative. This is where this will go.
 - ✓ It will be Enforced in all curriculum
 - ✓ There will be Economic sanctions if you disobey
 - ✓ Boards and institutional dynamics will be impacted
 - ✓ All HS's, charter schools, Christian schools, right through everything!
 - ✓ This Book, the Bible will be rewritten to cut out and rephrase anything having to do with homosexuality

- Paul, in writing Timothy spoke of the church: “church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”²
- We are the stewards and pillars of the truth. We will be labeled as hateful to stand for the Word of God. You will be on the watch list. Trouble makers. It will become illegal to stand up for traditional marriage. It is huge folks!
- Make no mistake about it—Biblical truth is being challenged! This is the Word of God and we believe it.
- We will stand on the Word of God at The Road

God created marriage. Marriage is Almighty God’s idea. God himself effectively performed the first marriage in Genesis 2.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

And Adam said:

**“This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”**

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.³

- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit presided over the first marriage! Between one man and one woman
- **In Mark 10 Jesus said, *But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this***

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (1 Ti 3:15). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ge 2:21–24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁴

- Ex. I just led the marriage ceremony for my son and his beautiful wife Chandler last Saturday night and the presence of Jesus showed up. That they would feel His presence. God ordains, blesses, and anoints marriage in His name!
- Mal 2:15 tells us that marriage is for “godly offspring.” I figured it out folks—men with men and women with women don’t produce offspring
- It seems on the one hand that everything is coming apart, but on the other hand everything is coming together.
- In our darkest hour there is the potential to be our finest hour!
- Bible prophecies are being fulfilled before our very eyes!
- The Church is historically at its best in the darkest times

Romans 1

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ⁵

1 Cor 6

⁴ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 10:6–7). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁵ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ro 1:26–28). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.⁶

- ✓ The Queen James Bible, also known as the Gay Bible, is a new assault on biblical orthodoxy and sexual purity. This is to be expected in a world of moral relativism. In it, the 1769 King James Bible has been reproduced with only a very few select verses altered--the ones that relate to homosexuality.
- The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Don't be deceived. Because they could be deceived! This is a big statement.
- If you are embracing as a normative practice these things in 1 Cor 6 you will not inherit the kingdom of God! Not people who struggle but those who actively give into these things. If that is your normative way, you will not go to heaven, but to hell
- That's so extreme! That is what your book says? Are you kidding? Your book says we are not going to heaven! You are minimizing their dignity. NO, we are maximizing one's dignity!
- We would say that our book is the steward of love and safety and security.

⁶ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (1 Co 6:9–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

3) In the Latter Days, Persecution will Increase against the Church. Power will increase through the Church

At The Road, we believe Christ is coming back and that He is preparing His bride to be a beautiful, spotless, holy, powerful people that will meet Him in the clouds. We believe that the scriptures are clear that in the latter days there will be growing persecution of the Church but that God will pour out His Spirit upon the church and we will be more empowered than any other generation before us

At The Road, we believe in church history, and history is His-Story and in His Story we can see that it is in times of persecution, culturally fall out, immorality, and heresy that the true Church has her finest hour. This is an exciting time in our history. This is the time for the Church to stand tall, stay steadfast, be firm, and walk in God's love and power

Ex. We are living ***Fahrenheit 451***→Written in 1953, Set in the twenty-fourth century, *Fahrenheit 451* introduces a new world in which control of the masses by the media, overpopulation, and censorship has taken over the general population. The individual is not accepted and the intellectual is considered an outlaw. Television has replaced the common perception of family. The fireman is now seen as a flamethrower, a destroyer of books rather than an insurance against fire. Books are considered evil because they make people question and think. The people live in a world with no reminders of history or appreciation of the past; the population receives the present from television.

Ex. George Orwell's ***1984***, written in 1949, The tyranny is epitomised by **Big Brother**, the Party leader who enjoys an intense **cult of personality** but who may not even exist. The Party "seeks power entirely for its own sake. It is not interested in the good of others; it is interested solely in power."^[4] The **protagonist** of the novel, **Winston Smith**, is a member of the **Outer Party**, who works for the **Ministry of Truth** (or Minitrue), which is responsible for propaganda

and [historical revisionism](#). His job is to rewrite past newspaper articles, so that the historical record always supports the party line

- Ex. God gave Liz a dream over twenty years ago to build a library, and underground library, because Christian books would be outlawed. Then just a few months before resigning at MSC, this woman in our city called me to tell her husband had willed me his library...
- Satan's power and influence will increase but so will God's anointing in the End Times Church
- Ex. The church is under attack!
 - We are still reeling from the vicious attacks in Charleston at the AME church. Amazing to see the forgiveness of these precious people. Amazing!
 - Being slaughtered by ICIS in the Middle East.
 - Persecution is growing in our nation—against all churches that have chosen to be disciple making, Word of God believing, uncompromising in their faith, churches.
 - We will be marginalized, boycotted, maybe even imprisoned because of our faith. It's coming and this decision will embolden activists to shut our convictions down
- But, The Church thrives when it's in sharp contrast to the culture. The early church didn't vote on who the next Caesar would be.
- They were hunted down and immorality was rampant. In Athens, in Corinth, in Ephesus, the church was

marginalized culturally. But, in short order, The church turned the world upside down.

- How did they do it? They didn't boycott or carry signs but rather they, out lived, out prayed, out worked, out loved, and out gave non-believers
- Radical love, Radical Praying, Radical Marriages, Radical Giving, Radical Compassion!
- Know that Christ prophesied that in the latter days we would suffer for living a righteous life and being a Jesus disciple

Matt 24:8

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”⁷

- In the last days you will be hated because you are my followers.
- Jesus said in Matt 5, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven,⁸

⁷ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mt 24:8–12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁸ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mt 5:10–12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Rejoice! Rejoice! "All who live godly will suffer persecution."
- Persecution means to be "hunted down." You will be mocked and ridiculed. If it has happened to you. Congratulations.

It is a badge of honor! Persecution happens to those who live godly. If you're not being persecuted, you need to ask are you living godly? Bring it on!!

At The Road: we will out live, out love, out pray, out work, out love, and out give the culture

4) Show the love of Christ to everyone!

- "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself"
- Ex. April 9, 2015 USA Today:
President Obama is lending support to efforts to end "conversion therapy" that seeks to change the sexual orientation of gay, lesbian and transgender youth.
- Obama wants to stop "conversion therapy" if that counselor tells them they should convert and change their behavior, you will lose your license! It will be illegal to treat this way. Obama wants to make it illegal to do this. They will lose their license and more. The parents and the family will have implications too. They will be on a watch list. Meet them where they are and meet them with the gospel. He loves the person who is gay. Same sex attraction.
- Just because you have same sex attraction doesn't mean you're gay, it means that is your area of temptation. Just because I have attraction for women doesn't mean I act

on it except with my wife. Just because I'm attracted to women doesn't mean I'm an adulterer.

- The gospel doesn't define us by our temptations but by our relationship with Christ.
- We can love the sinner but we can judge sin according to what the Bible says. We can bring an evaluation of sin. Evaluate and tell them the truth. Speak the truth in love.
- At The Road we don't condemn anyone!
 - That's not our place. The Woman caught in an act of adultery. Jesus didn't condemn her but he said "go and sin no more."
 - We can only do what Jesus did--He didn't judge, but He also didn't condone and accept. He said, "Go and sin no more."
 - Jesus was contending, battling for this woman's dignity and beauty!!
 - We speak the truth in love. We love them enough to tell them the truth
 - The love of God constrains us. We love people who are not following Christ. We are contending for the dignity of man. We are contending for their greatness. We love them so much that we want them to know the truth!

Ex. You go to a family doctor and he discovers you have cancer. And the doctor knows that if they know the truth it will mean some major changes for that person and the family for the next few years. Because he loves them, he tells them the truth! If he didn't want to offend them or mess up their family

plans and hides the truth, would that be love?? he would be criminal if he didn't tell them!

- If you love them, tell them the truth. Love them, care about them, stand with them, but don't lie and not tell them the truth. If you really love, fight for their greatness! Fight for their true dignity!
- Engage all people with the love of Christ. Saul was the most notorious of sinners and God met him and transformed him. God can change anyone!
- They will know us by our love!!
- Ex. Look in this room—sex immorality, abuse, etc. and God changed us!!

5) We need to show this culture what a Spirit Empowered Christian Marriage looks like.

From our Church Constitution:

Article III. Ministry Distinctives

3.3 Marriage and Family - We believe that the family is still the most important building block of society. Jonathan Edwards once said, "Every family is a little church." We desire to plant and develop churches and ministries that build strong marriages and homes. We value the equipping of men and women in their biblical roles as husband and wife, father and mother. We desire to foster a home life that is full of joy, forgiveness, and faith. We realize that many children are not born into families and, thus, we have a passion for the orphan and widow. We have a high value for seeing orphans disciplined and restored into viable families. We adhere to the biblical view that marriage is between one-man and one-woman and thus only do marriages between a man and a woman. We do not perform same gender marriages as we view this as antithetical to the clear teachings of scripture.

(See Genesis 1:27-28; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9| Ephesians 5:18-6:4; Hebrews 13:14; 1 Peter 3; 1 Corinthians 7; and 1 Corinthians 13)

- God chose marriage as his symbol of his love for us and our love for him. That's how we should exhibit this love. look at how that man, that woman loves the other! We must show them!
- Rev 22, the church is a bride. Non-believers should be able to look at our marriages as the greatest witness of Jesus and the church. We must live out our marriage before the culture.
- This is is a representation of God's love.
- Ex. In our family, our greatest witness to our family are our kids—how they are growing up, living out, loving God!
- Divorce because of "Irreconcilable differences?" Liz and I have had irreconcilable differences for 30 years!
- God brings reconciliation. Forgive and move forward. Keep it together. Keep it strong

6) We must have an Excellent Spirit and Pray for Revival in the Church and Awakening in America

At The Road, we believe in revival in the Church and spiritual awakening in society. That God sometimes chooses to come and show His glory and power in manifest ways that result in cataclysmic transformation of people in culture!

Daniel found himself in a similar situation under Darius...

Daniel 6:3

Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; ⁹

Vs. 6

So these governors and satraps thronged before the king,

⁹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Da 6:3). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." Therefore King Darius signed the written decree. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.¹⁰

- The passage says Daniel had an excellent spirit. Daniel heard of the edict to bow down to, he prayed. He prayed 3x a day!
- When the authorities told the Christians in Jerusalem to stop preaching the Gospel, they prayed for greater boldness! And the place was shaken!
- This is way bigger than politics. There is no political messiah coming. We need a spiritual awakening. This is bigger than culture. We need revival. Pray for that. We need to pray for the Church, our church, The Road.

2 Chron 7:13

When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, verse 14, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from

¹⁰ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Da 6:6–10). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹¹

- God is so generous! God wants to prosper us. God will work according to our prayers
- God wants to work with us! Remarkable statement! God could do it alone but He wants to do it with us. that's amazing.
- If we are not warring against sin in our lives, it undercuts our authority
- God shuts up the heavens and brings judgment on the land to get our attention
- We are asleep spiritually and the enemy is taking over and God allows it
- Different measures of healing. Different places and different ways. Different categories, different regions
- We can't fully measure what he will do in the land
- I just know that when we pray, it does affect things in the fourth dimension
- We have a covenant relationship with God and the , broken, that when we call out, there is greater angelic activity, Holy Spirit activity increases, and a diminishing in the demonic world
- He's talking to the people of God—people who have been compromising

¹¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (2 Ch 7:13–14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Starting tonight we are starting a new initiative at The Road. It is called "The 7:14 Prayer Initiative"

- ✓ Set your alarm at 7:14 everyday
- ✓ At 7:14 am or pm or both, we are praying for ourselves, our church, our city, our nation
- ✓ We will do it in July

2 Chron. 7:14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

1. **Humble Yourself.** Humble yourself before God and confess your lack of passion and zeal. Confess sins in your life that are hindering your relationship with Jesus (1 Peter 5:6-9). He does and He will forgive you (1 John 1:9). Then, ask Him to fill you with power and love through His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). Ask God to refresh you to your first love for Him (Revelation 2:4-5). Pray that you would be revived to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:35-40).
2. **Revival in the Church.** Revival is a reviving of something that exists already. Ask God to shake up and bring fresh power upon His Church—pour out His Spirit upon The Road and other churches in our city (Acts 1:8; 2:1).
3. **Awakening in the Nation.** Awakening is a wake up to those asleep spiritually. Ask God to bring a great awakening to our city and our nation. Pray that He would wake up the non-believer and the carnal believer to a desire to know and follow Christ (Ephesians 5:14).

Pray as a family—ask these questions before you pray:

- From this message tonight, what are some of the things that never change?
- From this message tonight, why are we praying 2 Chron 7:14?
- From this message tonight, why do we need a revival in America?